

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

"WOODY" HAYES

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Graduates, Mr. President, faculty members, friends and families of the graduates who have done so much of sacrifice, so much to make this possible.

Today is the greatest day of my life.

And, Mr. President, you have certainly helped to make it that way. I appreciate it so much to get to come here and get to talk to a graduating class at the Ohio State University, the great, great university that you and I have. And if I don't do a good job today it'll be because I clutched and you don't very often do that in a contest. But I am so grateful and so appreciative to be here today I can't tell you how much.

I would like to start out with something I have used with almost every speech and that is, paying forward, paying forward. And that is the thing that you folks with your great education from here can do for the rest of your life.

I was so happy the other day when I saw in the paper about Jim Lachey who played here a year ago and comes back after one year of professional football to give a gift to the university in six figures, in six figures. And what he said was, "I received a great education here and I got to play great football under Coach Bruce and under a great football system here," and he said, "I want to help some other youngster to do the same thing." If you take that attitude toward life, that you're going to pay forward, because so seldom can we pay back because those, your parents and

those people will be gone, but you do want to pay. Emerson had something to say about that. He said, "You can pay back only seldom." But he said, "You can always pay forward and you must pay line for line, deed for deed, and cent for cent." He said, "Beware of too much good accumulating in your palm or it will fast corrupt." That was Emerson's attitude and no one put it better than he did.

And I might mention a couple of people, Jim Lachey is one, who are already paying forward. Two weeks ago in Michigan a former football player of ours from New Philadelphia passed away in his 60s. He had been in the Marine Corps during the war and on Okinawa there were only 30 from his outfit that survived. And actually that made a difference on him. Because he came back to coaching--he was a great coach--his name was Jack Castignola. He sent his son here as one of our quarterbacks. An Jack Castignola won nine championship undefeated seasons. But he did something bigger. Of the hundreds he had on his squads of football players, 126 went on to college. 126 players went on to college and that was his way of paying forward.

We had a great dean of agriculture here by the name of Roy Kottmann, who retired a couple of years ago. And at his retirement, he and I were having lunch one day in the Faculty Club and I said, "Roy, how did you happen to go to Iowa State?" "Oh," he said, "I was working back in the depression for \$1.50 a day pumping gas and I couldn't save any money." But he said an old man in that community in Iowa came to him and said, "Roy, if you will go to Iowa State, I'll pay your tuition." So he said,

"I went to Iowa State, worked for my room and board and graduated, went into service, came back, got my masters and my doctors, went to West Virginia as dean of their ag college," and then he said he came to Ohio State. And he was here 23 years. In those 23 years he virtually doubled food production in Ohio. On top of that he graduated thousands of youngsters. On top of that he helped to feed hungry mouths all over the world. All because that old man back in Iowa said, "Roy, if you'll go to Iowa State, I'll pay your tuition." That's paying forward.

You know, I might give you a little advice today. I'll try not to give too much, just a little bit. One thing you cannot afford to ever do--that's to feel sorry for yourself. You can't do it. You cannot feel sorry for yourself because that's what leads to drugs, what leads to alcohol, to those things that tear you apart. And in football we always said that, "Hell, that other team can't beat us. We have to be sure that we don't beat ourselves." And that's what a person has to do, too--make sure they don't beat themselves. And it takes an awful big man to beat you.

So many times you have found here at the university (I've found it all the way through college and everything else), I've found people smarter than I was. I found them in football bigger, that could run faster, could block harder. They were smarter people than I. But you know what they couldn't do? They couldn't out-work me. They couldn't out-work me. And I ran into coaches I coached against who had a much better background than I did, knew a lot more football than I did, but they couldn't work

as long as I could. They couldn't stick in there as long as I could. Because my health was good. I was given good health. I had a wonderful wife who would put up with that. She allowed me to stay and work.

And I had a great, great association with my coaches. There was no one who ever had better people than I did. Or better football players and we out-worked them. The only way we would get beat was if we got a little fatheaded, if we didn't train right, if we had dissention on the squad, if we didn't recognize our purpose in life. Those are the people you win with.

Now, Mr. Barthalow, excuse me for ending that sentence with a preposition.

Mr. Barthalow, in junior high, was my history and English teacher. Guess what I majored in when I went to college. History and English. He was the best teacher I ever had and I am so honored to have him here today. And to have my sister and my wife and those people here just the same as you're happy to have your parents here today who have meant so much to you because a family life is unbelievable. It's unbelievable.

Last summer I was up at Worthington Steel at a big party and they got me a chair and they set me down and here eleven of our former football players lined up there and I took a look at all of them. And do you know what they all had in common? They had all been married once. Once. And they all had children by that wife. And do you know where most of those wives came from? Right here at this great university. Right here. But that is so important. You will find men who are successful. Get married

and stay married to that lady. I worry about people getting married later. And I talk to girls and they say, "Well, I don't think I want to have children." You know what I say to them? "How did you get here?" But that family is so enormously important.

I'm going to tell a story I shouldn't tell. But I'm going to tell it about the greatest graduate in your university right now. Right now. About a Rhodes Scholar winner, Mike Lanese. I asked his mother over a week ago, I said, "When did you realize this young man was going to be outstanding?" She said, "When I was carrying him." And she said, "When I would tell people that when I was carrying him, they would laugh." They don't laugh now. They don't laugh now. I talked to his dad. I said, "When did you know he was going to be a great athlete?" He said, "Well, by the time he was in the seventh grade he was coming along physically. You could tell he was going to be a good one. But," he said, "I found out something else when he was in the seventh grade." He said, "I found out he was listening to his coaching instruction and the instruction we gave him." There's your good family. As I say, with good people, and this goes all the way back to my grandmother and all the way down the line, she didn't tell my dad, "Now you go to the study table." No, no. She said, "I'll meet you at the study table." And that's where your good parents and your good teachers are. Hell, they're talking now about all of this tutoring you need for athletes. We were doing that 35 years ago. Sure, because I didn't send those football players to the study table. I met them at the study

table. And I could tutor history as well as anybody, thanks to that man up there. Yeh. But I could.

But when you deal with youngsters, when you get into jobs of any kind, don't send people to do it. Meet them there and help them do it. And you'll be amazed how it works. Yeh.

And the other thing I mentioned. You can out-work anybody. Try it and you'll find out you can do it.

You know, in football we do learn some wonderful, wonderful things. And one of them is this. When you get knocked down, which is plenty often, you get right up in a hurry, just as quickly as you can. Then, number two, do you know what to do? You probably need more strength. Do you know where you get it? You get it in the huddle. You get it by going back and getting a new play and running that same play together. That "together" is the thing that gives you the buildup to get ready to go again.

And in your lifetimes how well you can work with people will depend on how quickly you get back to 'em and get together.

And number three in football, you'll find out, there's nothing that comes easy that's worth a dime. There's nothing that comes easy that's worth a dime. As a matter of fact, I never saw a football player make a tackle with a smile on his face. Never.

All right, there's one more thing I want to get into and then I will let you get graduated. I know you want to do that. That's what you came to college for. That's what you parents sent you to college for--Oh, excuse me, Mr. Barthalow, again, for that dangling preposition.

But we've had a great, great heritage. And so many times we've been so lucky you can't believe it. The odds against us were unbelievable. The battle of Salamis five hundred years before the birth of Christ back in Greece in which the Persians were there to conquer Greece and burned Athens down. The old men and old women and the children were over on the beachhead at Salamis. And the Persians came in to whip them. But the Greeks had been getting ready for ten years. They had discovered silver on Mt. Laurium. And they had taken that silver to help them make good ships small, ships that could move. And they coaxed, they mousetrapped those Persians into the Bay of Salamis. And then they attacked them with their metal prows on their ships. They busted into 'em. Th Persians couldn't get out of the way. They were too awkward in their big troop-carrying ships and in one day, they sank the Persian fleet and drove them out of the gulf and all the way back to Persia. They drove them back.

And then the Greeks got busy. And you know what they did? They went over and rebuilt their city and decided they needed a new type of government. They even had a name for it. De-mo-cra-tos. Did you ever hear of dem-mo-cra-tos? People rule. People rule. That was the beginning of democracy. Right there on the Bay of Salamis is where we got this great thing we have today.

To give you an appreciation of this de-mo-cra-tus here, a few years ago the mayor of Stuttgart, Germany was here and I interviewed him on television down here. He was the son of the great general during the war--Rommel. And I said to him. I

said, "Did your father agree with Hitler's order to stop on May 24, 1940 when they were within 40 miles of the English Channel?" And he said, "Wait a minute, coach. There's something you're not thinking about." He said, "My father did not have choices at all. He lived in a dictatorship." He said, "I live in a democracy and you live in the greatest in the world, a great democracy." He said, "You and everyone else in your country has choices and decisions to make almost every day of their life." He said, "My father didn't."

And that night when I got home I started to wondering why he became so upset. And then I got to thinking, what was the last decision his father made on this earth. And the decision was to take the poison pill and die so that this boy and his mother could live. And that makes you appreciate democracy when you look at it that way.

And you do have great, great decisions to make every day of your life. And at Salamis it all started with de-mo-cra-tos when they drove those darned old Persians back to where they belonged.

All right, the next one is much more recent. But we haven't heard too much about it. Another underdog victory. The fellows who did it were your age. The Battle of Britain. The Battle of Britain.

They were four to one underdogs against Hitler's hordes. At that time even the American ambassador to England was sending reports back here that he didn't think the British could win. They were four to one underdogs. A matter of fact, the radio announcer every night would come on with that mournful dirge in

his voice. He'd say, "This is London." The British didn't look at it that way. They fought, men, women and the boys who flew those planes. And you know what they did. They did something greater than that. Their mathematicians and their scientists had done something that the German arrogance didn't think could happen. They had broken the German code--the Enigma code. So that those British with their coding machines called the Ultra--and it was the Ultra, the best in the world--and what they did, they broke that German code. They knew where the German forces were coming from. They knew at what time they'd get there. They knew the point of attack, the formation, everything about 'em. And then, these fighter planes of the British, manned mainly by British but some Americans, some Polish, some Canadians, they'd go up and strike 'em just as they were ready to lower their bombs.

Air Marshal Dowding didn't send them out over the Channel. He didn't have that many. He was out-numbered over two to one. He didn't want to waste their time or their fuel or their strength. Because these young fellows-- just your age, mind you--the one thing they wanted in the world was to get up there and fight and then get back and have a couple of hours to roll over and go to sleep under a shade tree and get ready to go up and fight again. That's the way they fought and won.

And then when the British had won General Dowding was criticized and fired. Well, there have been a lot of great men fired--MacArthur, Richard Nixon, a lot of 'em. But rather than knighting him for what he had done, and he had fought an

unbelievably great war, they sent him over here recruiting. He could very easily have straightened them out by telling them of the Ultra secret but he wouldn't do that. He wouldn't do that because he knew that Ultra was going to be needed for the rest of the war. And it wasn't told for 35 years after that, for 35 years. And this man went to his death keeping it sealed. And that was Air Marshal Dowding, all honor to his great name. All honor.

They won. And they won for us because if Hitler had whipped England then and got the English navy (that was a year-and-a-half before we ever got to the war) we'd have never got into it. And Hitler would have been over here after us, you can believe on that. You can believe that.

So that's how fortunate we were to have those great British people. And you know what the greatest man in the war said about those fliers? He said, "Never has so much been owed by so many to so few." "Never has so much been owed by so many" and he was referring to those British fliers who won that Battle of Britain.

I'd like to tell you about one more. One more. And it's referred to yet as a miracle, the miracle of Midway. Underdogs! You can't believe it. But let me tell you about it quickly. Underdogs! The Japanese had eight battleships in the area. We had eight but all of ours were in the mud back at Pearl Harbor. This was six months after Pearl Harbor. They were in the mud. The Japanese had 14 cruisers; we have five heavy cruisers. They had 45 destroyers; we had 15. They had a whole flotilla of submarines; they had eight admirals in the area. We had two and

one of them was a substitute. But that substitute made two of the greatest decisions that were ever made in combat, because what he did, he sent his planes off early.

But let me tell you a little something else about this.

Intelligence--yes, it was there. We had broken the Japanese code, the purple code, the diplomatic code, and we knew where they were coming. At least, Admiral Nimitz at Pearl knew. In Washington, neah, they didn't know. They'd have gotten mousetrapped like they did at Pearl Harbor six months before. Admiral Nimitz knew. He had a great man, a commander Rocquefort, who was his intelligence officer who had spent three years in Japan before the war studying their language and now he broke their language code. He broke it and we knew they were coming to Midway.

So the great advantage that Admirals Prugh and the substitute had, he sent his planes off early because he knew the Japs were going for another strike on Midway. And he hit their carriers when they had gasoline hoses all over the deck and land bombs were there and everything else was up on the decks. And, mind you, you can't believe this and this is true, at 10:30 the Japanese were winning the war; at 10:36 they had lost it. Three carriers, the Kaga, the Akagi and the Soryu, were sunk in six minutes. They didn't go down until the next day but they were mortally wounded. They had all those gasoline hoses on the deck. And I asked Ensign George Gaye, who was in the water for 30 hours (his torpedo squadron, he was the only one who survived) and he told me, "I had to hold my eye open to see the battle. My left

eye was burned shut." But he said, "I held my left one open with my two hands, my right one open. And I watched the battle." I said, "Was this Kaga's battle?" He said, "Hell, Woody, by that afternoon that darn thing was burning from stem to stern." He said, "We'd hit it." Do you know why we'd hit it? Teamwork. Because George Gaye and Torpedo Squadrons Seven, Eight and Nine went in there and were practically totally decimated. They never got a strike on those carriers.

But you know what they did? They brought the air umbrella, the Japanese zeros came down to hit 'em. And when they came down to hit 'em, then our high level bombers came over and in six minutes that's what happened.

The thing that is so amazing about that is that those four ships that I mentioned and two more, the Shokaku and the Zuikaku, they'd been knocked out at Coral Sea when the Japanese were trying to take Australia and we kept them from doing it. And those two and the four whom I mentioned, the Kaga, the Akagi, the Hiryu and the Soryu, those six ships--you know who they were? Unbelievably, they were the six that had raided Pearl Harbor six months before, before war was declared. And those ships turned it around. It took us three more years in the Pacific. To win the war, Harry Truman had to use the atom bomb to save a million of our lives of our servicemen and a million Japanese lives. You may have heard other opinions about that but the truth is that he sat down with great men and he came to the conclusion he had to use it to save our lives and he did it. I never voted for Harry Truman but I fought for that.

These things happened behind us. Our problems are before us. Russia sure is a problem. How'd they get that way? Believe it or not, Russia came, communism came right out of the First World War, directly. The German general staff put Lenin in Russia to start that revolution. That's exactly the way it started. Now half of the world is enslaved by communism.

The atom bomb, our other problem, it came out of Germany, too. It came out of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute. A little Jewish lady brought that to us. We had it for two years and a half and never started to build it until it looked like Hitler was going to win in '42. And that's when we started to build that atom bomb.

But it's problems in the world today. You'd say," well, if you didn't drop it the Russians wouldn't have known." Oh yes, they already knew about it. Intelligence, that's an interesting story, too.

But all of those are problems. These wars always bring bigger problems than they settle. We can't have that. And yet it's up to us to have such a good democracy that those people want it too. Because right now the communists expect one thing--you should know this--they expect to conquer the world. They expect to conquer the world. And they're tough people. They're just as tough as they can be. And yet we've got to live lives that are better than theirs.

There are problems whenever you try to help them. If you give them food they'll wind up with a bigger army. If you give them technical devices, they'll use them against us. What they

want worst of all to know and what we know so well is computers. Oh, they'd love to have our computers. They'd just love to have them. We can't let 'em have them. We're going to have to work out, probably through another generation, to get this thing ever completely settled--if it ever will be. But that's a job that will be in your future.

I'm going to tell you a little story how education helps on this.

Two years ago I was down speaking in Georgia and one of my former football captains was there and he brought his family for breakfast with me. And he had daughter that had been to a girls school and the next year was going to go to the University of Georgia. And you know what she was going to do? She's a pianist and she was going to work for two years and study Russian composers. Then she was going for two years study in Russian language. And then on top of that she was going to study TV communications so she can go to Russia. I think she'll be as fine an ambassador as we can have there. Because she is a lovely, lovely young lady.

Things like that, work like that, decisions like that will help to change this and make it a better, better world. And I have no idea but what you have the attitude and the capacity and the ability here to go on from here and help to make this a greater, greater world.

And God speed in the meantime to all of you. Thank you very much.